

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF NEW YORK

THOMAS D. COLE,

Plaintiff,

-against-

WPIX, INC. (owner of "NOW IT CAN BE TOLD"  
a nationally syndicated television  
program), WNBC, THE NATIONAL BROADCASTING  
CO., and BROOKE SKULSKI,

Defendants.

Index No.

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF NEW YORK )

ss.:

COUNTY OF NEW YORK )

THOMAS D. COLE, being duly sworn deposes and says:

1. I am presently 21 years of age. I have a 9th grade education. I submit this affidavit in support of my attorney's application to enjoin WPIX, owner of "Now It Can Be Told", from permitting the broadcast by stations across the country, including WNBC in New York, of two interviews of me which I was pressured into giving. Before giving these interviews, I was promised by the show's producer, Brooke Skulski, that if I gave the interviews they would not be shown unless I filed a lawsuit against the World Wrestling Federation. Our agreement was reduced to writing, a copy of which is annexed as Exhibit B. We specifically discussed the possibility that I might settle with the World Wrestling Federation, in which event airing such an interview would only embarrass me and compromise my situation.

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2. I have returned to work at the World Wrestling Federation as a ring crew employee. In this job I am responsible with others for assembling wrestling rings and related needs.

3. I did not receive any money for the interviews. I was called in Utica, New York by Brooke Skulski. She spoke to my brother and pressed her way to come up to meet me. She would not take no for an answer. At first, she only wanted to talk and not tape. She returned a second time with a camera in hand.

4. In my first conversation with her, I said "if I was not to file a lawsuit, you can't run this story." She assured me most definitely that this story would in that event not run. Were it not for this promise I would not have agreed to be interviewed. I wanted to hold off on an interview until I filed a lawsuit. She pushed the issue to interview now, since she was already there, promising not to run it if I didn't file a lawsuit. This point was so important that I requested and received the said letter agreement dated March 4, 1992 annexed as Exhibit B.

5. Having won my trust and having entered our agreement, at Ms. Skulski's urging I came to New York City and was interviewed a second time by Greg Rivera, one of the show's co-hosts.

6. But for their agreement not to air the interviews unless I filed suit, I would not have given the interviews before filing a lawsuit.

7. The interviews contain graphic descriptions of sexual abuse I sustained between the ages of 13 and 19, most of it between the ages of 13 and 16. This abuse has left me emotionally scarred. Publicly airing what I went through, when it is not necessary since I was able to avoid filing a lawsuit, will seriously damage me further. There is no substitute for my pride and privacy, which was a strong factor leading me to settle my case.

8. Settling my case also permitted me to return to work at the World Wrestling Federation. The environment there is fragile for me and the story coming up would destroy my ability to return to a normal existence there.

9. It would seem to me that "Now It Can Be Told" should be bound by its promises. Had they not made these promises, I would not have given the interviews.

Thomas D. Cole  
THOMAS D. COLE

Sworn to before me this  
24th day of March, 1992

Sarah Cooper  
Notary Public

SARAH COOPER  
Notary Public, State of New York  
No. 81-4667821  
Qualified in New York County 73  
Commission Expires Oct 21 1993